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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An uninstall control apparatus connected with a master device and for controlling a process for uninstalling control software from the master device, the control software being used by the master device for controlling one or more slave devices in a system consisting of the master device and the one or more of slave devices, the uninstall control apparatus comprising:

timing means for, if one of the slave devices is disconnected from the system, measuring elapsed time since the detection of the disconnection of the disconnected slave device;

timing control means for controlling the timing for uninstalling control software for the disconnected slave device; and

uninstall means for uninstalling the control software for the disconnected slave device under the control of the timing control means, wherein

the timing control means controls the uninstall means to start uninstalling after the measured elapsed time reaches a first predetermined time, of a duration to enable a re-connect of the disconnected slave device if the disconnected slave device is not reconnected to the system before the measured elapsed time reaches the first predetermined time, provided that; and

the disconnected slave device does not comprise the uninstall control apparatus.

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2. (Previously Presented) The uninstall control apparatus of claim 1, wherein the disconnection/reconnection of the slave device from the system is detected by a bus reset signal generated following the disconnection/reconnection.

3. (Previously Presented) The uninstall control apparatus of claim 1, wherein

the uninstall process executed by the uninstall means includes a plurality of stages, and

the timing control means controls the uninstall means to execute each of the plurality of stages in response to the elapsed time measured by the timing means.

4. (Previously Presented) The uninstall control apparatus of claim 3 further comprising:

restoration means for restoring data modified in the uninstall process,

wherein

the timing control means, when the reconnection of the slave device is detected before the uninstall means completes the uninstall process, stops the uninstall process by the uninstall means and gives the restoration means an instruction to restore the data modified by the time when the reconnection is detected to a state before starting of the uninstall process.

5. (Previously Presented) The uninstall control apparatus of claim 4, wherein

the control software to be uninstalled is described in an object-oriented language,

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the uninstall process executed by the uninstall means includes a stage for unloading classes which was loaded at the time when the control software was installed, and

the timing control means controls the uninstall means to unload the classes when the elapsed time reaches a second predetermined time.

6. (Previously Presented) The uninstall control apparatus of claim 4, wherein

the uninstall process executed by the uninstall means includes a stage for deleting registration information on the control software being the target for the uninstall process, the registration information being generated at the time when the control software was installed, and

the timing control means controls the uninstall means to delete the registration information when the elapsed time reaches a third predetermined time.

7. (Previously Presented) The uninstall control apparatus as defined in claim 4 further comprising:

storage means for storing installed control software, wherein

the uninstall process executed by the uninstall means includes a stage for deleting the control software being the target for the uninstall process from the storage means, and

the timing control means controls the uninstall means to delete the control software from the storage means when the elapsed time reaches a fourth predetermined time.

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8. (Previously Presented) The uninstall control apparatus of claim 7 further comprising:

acquisition means for acquiring control software and storing the control software in both auxiliary storage means and the storage means, wherein

the uninstall process executed by the uninstall means includes a stage for deleting the control software from the auxiliary storage means, and

the timing control means controls the uninstall means to delete the control software from the auxiliary storage means when the elapsed time reaches a fifth predetermined time.

9. (Previously Presented) The uninstall control apparatus of claim 3,

wherein the timing control means controls the uninstall means to execute each of the plurality of stages at a predetermined time set for the stage,

wherein the uninstall control apparatus further comprises:

updating means for updating the first predetermined time and at least one of the predetermined times set for the plurality of stages in accordance with external designation.

10. (Previously Presented) The uninstall control apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

update information reception means for receiving update information on control software, wherein

when the update information reception means receives update information on control software and disconnection of the slave device corresponding to the control software is detected for the first time after receiving the update information, the timing

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control means controls the uninstall means to execute the uninstall process without controlling the process based on the elapsed time.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a process for uninstalling control software from a master device, the control software being used by the master device for controlling one or more slave devices in a system consisting of the master device and the one or more of slave devices, the method comprising the steps of:

a detection step for detecting disconnection of a slave device from the system;

a timing step for measuring elapsed time since the detection of disconnection of the disconnected slave device is detected in the detection step; and

an uninstall step for uninstalling control software for controlling the disconnected slave device, the uninstall step being started after the measured elapsed time reaches a first predetermined time, of a duration to enable a re-connect of the disconnected slave device if reconnection of the disconnected slave device is not detected before the measured elapsed time reaches the first predetermined time; wherein

the detection step, the timing step, and the uninstall step are not performed by the disconnected slave device.

12. (Previously Presented) The method for controlling the uninstall process of claim 11, wherein

the uninstall step includes a plurality of stages, and

each of the plurality of stages are executed when the elapsed time reaches a predetermined time preset for the stage.

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13. (Previously Presented) The method for controlling the uninstall process of claim 12, further comprising:

a restoration step for, when reconnection of the disconnected slave device is detected during the uninstall step, stopping the uninstalling and restoring data modified in the stages having been executed by the time when the reconnection is detected to a state before starting of the uninstalling.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium which records a program used in an uninstall control apparatus connected with a master device and for controlling a process for uninstalling control software from the master device, the control software being used by the master device for controlling one or more slave devices in a system consisting of the master device and the one or more of slave devices, the program comprising:

a detection step for detecting disconnection of a slave device from the system;

a timing step for measuring elapsed time since the detection of disconnection of the disconnected slave device is detected in the detection step; and

an uninstall step for uninstalling control software for controlling the disconnected slave device, the uninstall step being started after the measured elapsed time reaches a first predetermined time, of a duration to enable a re-connect of the disconnected slave device if reconnection of the disconnected slave device is not detected before the measured elapsed time reaches the first predetermined time; wherein

the disconnected slave device does not comprise the uninstall control apparatus.

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15. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable recording medium of claim 14, wherein

the uninstall step includes a plurality of stages, and

each of the plurality of stages are executed when the elapsed time reaches a predetermined time preset for the stage.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable recording medium of claim 15, the program recorded on the recording medium further comprising:

a restoration step for, when reconnection of the disconnected slave device is detected during the uninstall step, stopping the uninstalling and restoring data modified in the stages having been executed by the time when the reconnection is detected to a state before starting of the uninstalling.

17. (Previously Presented) The uninstall control apparatus as defined in Claim 5 further comprising:

storage means for storing installed control software, wherein

the uninstall process executed by the uninstall means includes a stage for deleting the control software being the target for the uninstall process from the storage means, and

the timing control means controls the uninstall means to delete the control software from the storage means when the elapsed time reaches a fourth predetermined time.

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18. (Previously Presented) The uninstall control apparatus as defined in Claim 6 further comprising:

storage means for storing installed control software, wherein

the uninstall process executed by the uninstall means includes a stage for deleting the control software being the target for the uninstall process from the storage means, and

the timing control means controls the uninstall means to delete the control software from the storage means when the elapsed time reaches a fourth predetermined time.

19. (Previously Presented) An uninstall control apparatus according to claim 1 wherein none of the one or more slave devices comprises the uninstall control apparatus.

20. (Previously Presented) The uninstall control apparatus according to claim 19 wherein the master device comprises the uninstall control apparatus.